

LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 13, 2023
OPEN SESSION

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 13, 2023 OPEN SESSION OF THE LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION HELD IN NATCHITOCHEES, LOUISIANA. PRESENT WERE CHAIRMAN FOSTER CAMPBELL, VICE CHAIRMAN MIKE FRANCIS, COMMISSIONER ERIC SKRMETTA, COMMISSIONER CRAIG GREENE, COMMISSIONER DAVANTE LEWIS, AND EXECUTIVE SECRETARY BRANDON FREY.

Open Session of December 13, 2023, convening at 10:01 a.m., and adjourning at 11:52 a.m., Natchitoches City Council Chambers, 716 Second Street, Natchitoches, Louisiana, with the above-name members of the Commission and Executive Secretary Brandon Frey present.

Ex. 1	<p>Chairman Campbell announced the passing of his friend, Lane Pittard, former 26th Judicial District Court Judge, and asked for prayers for his family. He also thanked the mayor of Natchitoches, Jimmy Williams, for hosting the December B&E.</p> <p>Vice Chairman Francis gave condolences to his Executive Assistant, Janice Perkins, on the recent passing of her brother.</p> <p>Commissioner Greene thanked everyone for the thoughts and prayers for his father.</p> <p>Commissioner Lewis announced that he has a new office located at One American Place, 301 Main St., Baton Rouge, LA 70801.</p>
Ex. 2	<p>2024 Proposed Business and Executive Session Schedule</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote to accept the 2024 proposed schedule.</p> <p>The 2024 B&E schedule is as follows:</p> <p>January 24 February 21 March 27 April 19 May 22 June 19 July – No Meeting August 14 September 11 October 16 November 20 December 18</p> <p>On motion of Commissioner Skrmetta, seconded by Commissioner Greene, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to accept the proposed 2024 B&E schedule.</p>
Ex. 3	<p>R-31106 - Louisiana Public Service Commission, ex parte. In re: Rulemaking to study the possible development of financial incentives for the promotion of energy efficiency by jurisdictional electric and gas utilities.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote on Final Phase II Rules.</p> <p>DEFERRED</p>

<p>Ex. 4</p>	<p>S-36694 - TAS Environmental Services, L.P., ex parte. In re: Application to increase rates for Common Carrier Certificate Numbers 7618-A & 8016 pursuant to General Order dated October 02, 2012.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote on Staff Report and Recommendation.</p> <p>After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Skrmetta, seconded by Commissioner Lewis, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to accept the Staff's Recommendation filed into the record on November 17, 2023.</p> <p>Present for Questions/Comments: Steve Black – Chief Operations Office for TAS Environmental Services Stephen Gele' - Counsel for TAS Environmental Services</p>
<p>Ex. 5</p>	<p>S-36944 - Tempo Telecom, LLC, ex parte. In re: Application for certification as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier for the limited purpose of offering wireless Lifeline Service within Louisiana.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote on Staff Report and Recommendation.</p> <p>On motion of Commissioner Skrmetta, seconded by Commissioner Greene, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to accept the Staff Report and Recommendation filed into the record on November 17, 2023.</p>
<p>Ex. 6</p>	<p>U-35908 - Louisiana Public Service Commission, ex parte. In re: Audit of Purchased Gas Adjustment filings for the gas distribution division of Entergy Louisiana, LLC for the period January 2018 through December 2020.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote on Joint Report and Draft Order.</p> <p>On motion of Commissioner Skrmetta, seconded by Commissioner Greene, and unanimously adopted, the Commission accept the Joint Report and Draft Order filed into the record on November 22, 2023.</p>
<p>Ex. 7</p>	<p>U-36082 - Jefferson Davis Electric Cooperative, Inc., ex parte. In re: Request for Emergency Rate Relief Related to 2020 Hurricanes.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote on Unopposed Motion to Amend LPSC Order No. U-36082-A.</p> <p>After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Skrmetta, seconded by Commissioner Greene, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to grant JDEC's motion and modify Provision 4 of Order No. U-36082-A.</p>

<p>Ex. 8</p>	<p>U-36133 - Dixie Electric Membership Corporation, NextEra Energy Marketing, LLC and Amite Solar, LLC. In re: Joint Application for Approval of Power Supply Agreements.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote on Uncontested Stipulated Settlement pursuant to Rule 57.</p> <p>On motion of Commissioner Greene, seconded by Commissioner Lewis, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to assert its original and primary jurisdiction and take the matter up pursuant to Rule 57.</p> <p>After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Greene, seconded by Commissioner Lewis, with Chairman Campbell and Vice Chairman Francis concurring, and Commissioner Skrmetta opposing, the Commission voted to accept the Uncontested Stipulated Settlement filed into the record on December 1, 2023. The motion passed 4:1.</p> <p>Present for Questions/Comments: Noel Darce - Outside Counsel for Staff Randy Pierce – CEO and General Manager of DEMCO</p>
<p>Ex. 9</p>	<p>U-36190 - Entergy Louisiana, LLC, ex parte. In re: Application for Certification and Approval of the 2021 Solar Portfolio, Rider Geaux Green Option, Cost Recovery and Related Relief.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote on budget increase of Stone Pigman and J. Kennedy and Associates due to scope expansion.</p> <p>On motion of Commissioner Skrmetta, seconded by Commissioner Lewis, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to approve the budget increase of Stone Pigman of \$48,000 in fees and \$2,000 in expenses for a total budget not to exceed of \$50,000 and J. Kennedy & Associates of \$42,000 in fees and \$1,500 in expenses for a total budget not to exceed of \$43,500 due to scope expansion recognizing both firms anticipate seeking additional budget for additional work related to the Elizabeth and Sunlight contracts.</p>
<p>Ex. 10</p>	<p>1) Reports 2) Resolutions 3) Discussions 4) ERSC/OMS/SPP</p> <p>- Discussion and possible vote to ratify votes taken by Commissioner Greene acting as the Commission's representative on the Board of Directors of the Organization of MISO States.</p> <p>On motion of Commissioner Skrmetta, seconded by Commissioner Lewis, with Chairman Campbell and Vice Chairman Francis concurring, and Commissioner Greene abstaining, the Commission voted to ratify the vote taken by Commissioner Greene on December 1, 2023.</p> <p>5) Directives</p>

<p>Ex. 11</p>	<p>S-37005 - H.N.G. Holdings, LLC, Epic Touch, Co., Inc., CP-Tel Holdings, Inc., Campti-Pleasant Hill Telephone Company, Inc. and CP-Tel Network Services, Inc. In re: Request for Approval of the Change in Ownership and control and assumption of debt and pledge of security associated therewith.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote on Staff Report and Recommendation.</p> <p>At the request of Chairman Campbell.</p> <p>On motion of Commissioner Skrmetta, seconded by Commissioner Greene, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to accept the Staff Report and Recommendation filed into the record on December 5, 2023.</p>
<p>Ex. 12</p>	<p>R-35394 - Louisiana Public Service Commission, ex parte. In re: Proceeding to Examine Options Pertaining to Pole Viability, Pole Attachments, and all Areas that may Affect the Reliability and Sustainability of Louisiana's Electric Utility Distribution Grid.</p> <p>R-36226 - Louisiana Public Service Commission, ex parte. In re: Evaluation of Louisiana's electric grid regarding status, maintenance, and whether there is more that could have been done and can be done to benefit Louisiana customers.</p> <p>R-36227 - Louisiana Public Service Commission, ex parte. In re: Assessment of Louisiana's current electric utility infrastructure for resilience and hardening for future storm events.</p> <p>U-36625 - Entergy Louisiana, LLC, ex parte. In re: Application for approval of the Entergy Future Ready Resilience Plan (Phase I).</p> <p>In re: Directive regarding sequential steps for a more resilient Louisiana.</p> <p>At the request of Commissioner Greene.</p> <p>DEFERRED</p>
<p>Ex. 13</p>	<p>U-36514 - Concordia Electric Cooperative, Inc., and NextEra Energy Marketing, LLC, and Mondu Solar, LLC. In re: Joint application for approval of long-term power supply agreements.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote on Uncontested Stipulated Settlement pursuant to Rule 57.</p> <p>At the request of Chairman Campbell.</p> <p>On motion of Commissioner Greene, seconded by Commissioner Lewis, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to assert its original and primary jurisdiction and take the matter up pursuant to Rule 57.</p> <p>After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Greene, seconded by Chairman Campbell, with Vice Chairman Francis and Commissioner Lewis concurring, and Commissioner Skrmetta opposing, the Commission voted to accept the Uncontested Stipulated Settlement filed into the record on December 1, 2023. The motion passed 4:1. Commissioner Skrmetta's comments during Exhibit 8 are incorporated into the discussion on Exhibit 13.</p> <p>Present for Questions/Comments: Noel Darce – Outside Counsel for Staff Jennifer Vosburg – Counsel for Pointe Coupee Electric Membership Corporation Russell Purvis –Counsel for Concordia Electric Cooperative, Inc. Glenn Edwards –Counsel for Concordia Electric Cooperative, Inc.</p>

<p>Ex. 14</p>	<p>U-36515 - Pointe Coupee Electric Membership Corporation, and NextEra Energy Marketing, LLC, and Mondu Solar, LLC. In re: Joint application for approval of long-term power supply agreements.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote on Uncontested Stipulated Settlement pursuant to Rule 57.</p> <p>At the request of Chairman Campbell.</p> <p>On motion of Commissioner Greene, seconded by Commissioner Lewis, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to assert its original and primary jurisdiction and take the matter up pursuant to Rule 57.</p> <p>On motion of Commissioner Greene, seconded by Commissioner Lewis, with Chairman Campbell and Vice Chairman Francis concurring, and Commissioner Skrmetta opposing, the Commission voted to accept the Uncontested Stipulated Settlement filed into the record on December 1, 2023. The motion passed 4:1. Commissioner Skrmetta’s comments during Exhibit 8 are incorporated into the discussion on Exhibit 14.</p>
<p>Ex. 15</p>	<p>U-36516 - Southwest Louisiana Electric Membership Corporation, NextEra Energy Marketing, LLC, and Beauregard Solar, LLC. In re: Joint application for approval of long-term power supply agreements.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote on Uncontested Stipulated Settlement pursuant to Rule 57.</p> <p>At the request of Chairman Campbell.</p> <p>On motion of Commissioner Greene, seconded by Chairman Campbell, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to assert its original and primary jurisdiction and take the matter up pursuant to Rule 57.</p> <p>On motion of Commissioner Greene, seconded by Commissioner Lewis, with Chairman Campbell and Vice Chairman Francis concurring, and Commissioner Skrmetta opposing, the Commission voted to accept the Uncontested Stipulated Settlement filed into the record on December 1, 2023. The motion passed 4:1. Commissioner Skrmetta’s comments during Exhibit 8 are incorporated into the discussion on Exhibit 15.</p>
<p>Ex. 16</p>	<p>U-36793 - The Dow Chemical Company, ex parte. In re: Petition for Jurisdictional Determination.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote on Staff's Report and Recommendation pursuant to Rule 57.</p> <p>At the request of Commissioner Greene.</p> <p>On motion of Commissioner Skrmetta, seconded by Chairman Campbell, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to assert its original and primary jurisdiction and take the matter up pursuant to Rule 57.</p> <p>On motion of Commissioner Skrmetta, seconded by Commissioner Greene, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to accept Staff’s Report and Recommendation filed into the record on December 5, 2023.</p>

<p>Ex. 17</p>	<p>U-36992 - Northeast Louisiana Power Cooperative, Inc., ex parte. In re: Application for an increase in rates, including interim rates, and for the establishment of an emergency reserve fund.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote on Interim Rate Increase pursuant to Rule 57.</p> <p>At the Request of Chairman Campbell.</p> <p>On motion of Commissioner Skrmetta, seconded by Commissioner Greene, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to assert its original and primary jurisdiction and take the matter up pursuant to Rule 57.</p> <p>After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Skrmetta, seconded by Vice Chairman Francis, with Chairman Campbell and Commissioner Greene concurring, and Commissioner Lewis opposing, the Commission voted to accept NELPCO’s interim rate increase of 12.01 percent, subject to refund and applicable bonding requirements. Further, NELPCO is required to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) File proof of the applicable bond requirements with the Commission; 2) File an updated tariff indicating the interim rate, and its terms, with the Utilities Division within 30 days of the order approving such interim rate; and 3) Not begin charging the interim rate until proof of the applicable bond requirements and an updated tariff have been provided to, and approved by Staff. <p>Present for Questions/Comments: Kent Parsons – Counsel Northeast Louisiana Power Company Jeff Churchwell – General Manager of Northeast Louisiana Power Company</p>
<p>Ex. 18</p>	<p>Undocketed - Update on the Project Cypress Direct Air Capture (DAC) Hub located in Southwest Louisiana.</p> <p>At the request of Chairman Campbell.</p> <p>Executive Secretary Brandon Frey read an email from Shawn Bennett from Battelle in response to Chairman Campbell’s letter inquiring as to whether the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries’ White Lake Reserve was considered as a viable location for the DAC Hub.</p> <p>Present for Questions/Comments: Jerry Merchant – Board President of Port of Vinton</p>

On motion of Commissioner Skrmetta, seconded by Commissioner Greene, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to adjourn.

MEETING ADJOURNED

The next Business and Executive Session will be held on Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.